

Predicting Traffic Accident Severity

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background:

Vehicle sales, while impacted by recessions, have generally increased in tandem with population growth from the 1970s to 2019. This has resulted in dramatic country wide traffic congestion. In 2018 the Seattle metro area ranked as the 6th most congested with respect to traffic in the US. Drivers on average spent over 130 hours stuck in traffic and with limited ability to increase roadway efforts are underway to provide smart solutions to alleviate congestion.

1.2 Business Problem:

The objective of this project is to develop a Machine Learning model that will predict traffic accident severity based on a data set that includes 36 variables that are correlated to a given accident severity rating. This model could be potentially be deployed as a smart phone/car app that will allow drivers to monitor traffic conditions while enroute, and adjust the route to their target destination based on the predicted impacted of accidents recorded and warehoused by the SDOT Traffic Management Division, Traffic Records Group.

1.3 Population of Interest:

This model and app would find a broad population of interest that would span most driver demographics. Given that the average driver wastes over 130+ hours stuck in traffic, it would be advantageous to be able to predict the severity of accidents that contribute to those delays, and allow drivers the ability to alter their route in real time.

1.4 Analytic Approach:

The desired result for this project is a binary classification, i.e. an accident is either 0 – Non-Severe or 1 – Severe. Therefore the analytic approach used for this project includes the design, execution and evaluation of three machine learning classification models – Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine Classifier (SVC), and a Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) deep neural network. The Analytic Approach is one step in the overall Data Science Methodology adopted for project, as illustrated by Figure 1.4.1 below.

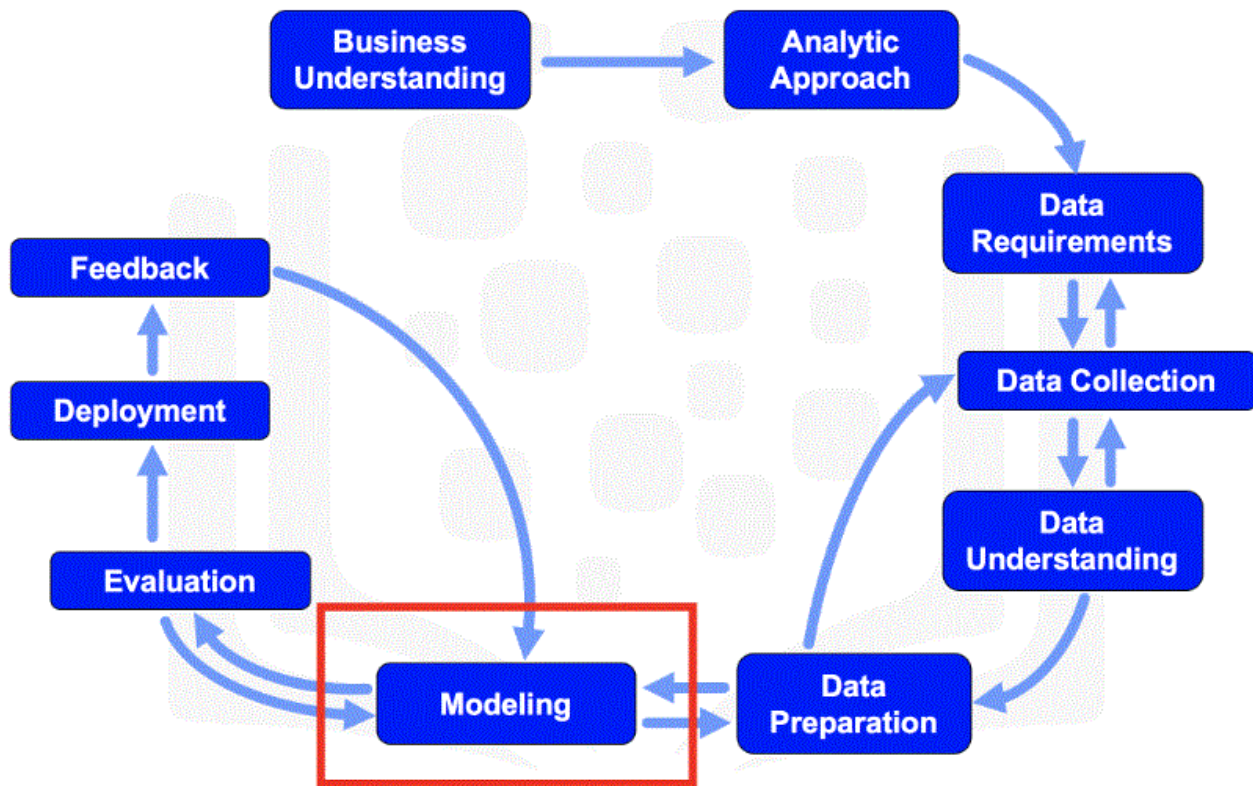


Figure 1.4.1 Data Science Methodology

2. Data Pre-processing & Feature Engineering

2.1 Data Sources:

The data utilized for this study was provided by SDOT Traffic Management Division, Traffic Records Group. It consists of 37 fields, 36 of which potentially used as Features/Predictors for inputs into the Machine Learning Models. The remaining Severity Code provides the Label/Target field used to train and test the models.

2.2 Data Pre-processing & Feature Engineering:

There were numerous issues were discovered with the raw .csv data file, that had to be addressed prior to being used as input for the Machine Learning models. To systematically address these issues we created a Feature Engineering & Pre-processing Operation Schedule as shown in Figure 2.2.1 below.

Feature Engineering - Preprocessing Operations Schedule

```
In [2]: data_wrangle_dF = pd.read_csv('D:\lbs_ds_cert\Data Science Capstone Project\DataWrangle.csv', index_col = 0)
data_wrangle_dF
```

Out[2]:

#	Feature	FALSE	TRUE	type	X-Check	Unique	Notes
1	X	189339	5334.0	int64	X	23663	mean
2	Y	189339	5334.0	int64	Y	23839	mean
3	OBJECTID	194673	NaN	int64	OBJECTID	194673	drop
4	INCKEY	194673	NaN	int64	INCKEY	194673	drop
5	COLDKEY	194673	NaN	int64	COLDKEY	194673	drop
6	REPORTNO	194673	NaN	int64	REPORTNO	194670	drop
7	STATUS	194673	126.0	int64	STATUS	2	drop
8	ADDRTYPE	129603	65070.0	int64	ADDRTYPE	3	numerical value
9	INTKEY	191996	2677.0	int64	INTKEY	7614	Value = 1 if > 0, 0 if ==
10	LOCATION	191996	2677.0	int64	Location	24102	drop
11	EXCEPTRSCODE	109862	84811.0	int64	EXCEPTRSCODE	2	drop
12	EXCEPTRSDISC	189035	5638.0	int64	EXCEPTRSDISC	1	drop
13	SEVERITYCODE.1	194673	NaN	int64	SEVERITYCODE.1	2	Label / target
14	SEVERITYDESC	194673	NaN	int64	SEVERITYDESC	2	encode
15	COLLISIONTYPE	189769	4004.0	int64	COLLISIONTYPE	10	encode
16	PERSONCOUNT	194673	NaN	int64	PERSONCOUNT	47	encode
17	PEDCOUNT	194673	NaN	int64	PEDCOUNT	7	encode
18	PEDCYLCOUNT	194673	NaN	int64	PEDCYLCOUNT	3	encode
19	VEHCOUNT	194673	NaN	int64	VEHCOUNT	13	encode
20	INCDATE	194673	NaN	int64	INCDATE	5085	split into M and DOM
21	INCDTTM	194673	NaN	int64	INCDTTM	162058	Split into 24 int
22	JUNCTIONTYPE	188344	6329.0	int64	JUNCTIONTYPE	7	encode
23	SDOT_COLCODE	194673	NaN	int64	SDOT_COLCODE	39	numerical value
24	SDOT_COLDESC	194673	NaN	int64	SDOT_COLDESC	39	drop
25	INATTENTIONIND	164868	29805.0	int64	INATTENTIONIND	1	Y = 1, blank = 0
26	UNDERINFL	189789	4884.0	int64	UNDERINFL	4	Chng N = 0, Y = 1
27	WEATHER	189592	5081.0	int64	WEATHER	11	encode
28	ROADCOND	189661	5012.0	int64	ROADCOND	9	encode
29	LIGHTCOND	189593	5170.0	int64	LIGHTCOND	9	encode
30	PEDDOWNNOTGRNT	190006	4667.0	int64	PEDDOWNNOTGRNT	1	Y = 1, blank = 0
31	SDOTCOLNUM	114936	79737.0	int64	SDOTCOLNUM	114932	drop
32	SPEEDING	185340	9333.0	int64	SPEEDING	1	Y = 1, N = 0
33	ST_COLCODE	194655	18.0	int64	ST_COLCODE	115	encode
34	ST_COLDESC	189769	4004.0	int64	ST_COLDESC	62	drop
35	SEGLANEKEY	194673	NaN	int64	SEGLANEKEY	1955	Value = 1 if > 0
36	CROSSWALKKEY	194673	NaN	int64	CROSSWALKKEY	2198	Value = 1 if > 0
37	HITPAWREDGAR	194673	NaN	int64	HITPAWREDGAR	2	Y = 1, N = 0

Figure 2.2.1 Feature Engineering & Pre-processing Operation Schedule

3. Exploratory Data Analysis & Feature Selection

3.1 Correlations:

Examination of the correlation matrix indicates that the strongest correlations relate to the number of vehicles, bicycles, people and pedestrians involved with the accident. Other features included whether pedestrian right of way not granted, address type, driver inattention, under the influence of drugs and alcohol and the precise hour, day of week, month, year in which the accident occurred. As will be demonstrated later in this report the model performance hinges on SEVERITYDESCRIPTION which turns out to be key feature available from the dataset.

Rank	Feature	Description	Correl to SEVCODE
1	SEVERITYDESC	A detailed description of the severity of the collision	80%
2	PEDCOUNT	The number of pedestrians involved in the collision. This is entered by the state.	24%
3	PEDCYLCOUNT	The number of bicycles involved in the collision. This is entered by the state.	21%
4	INTKEY	Key that corresponds to the intersection associated with a collision	20%
5	SDOT_COLCODE	A code given to the collision by SDOT.	18%
6	PEDROWNOTGRNT	Whether or not the pedestrian right of way was not granted. (Y/N)	18%
7	addrtype_code	Collision address type: • Alley • Block • Intersection	17%
8	PERSONCOUNT	The total number of people involved in the collision	13%
9	Year	Year of accident	8%
10	UNDERINFL	Whether or not a driver involved was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.	7%
11	HofD	Hour of Day of accident	6%
12	INATTENTIONIND	Whether or not collision was due to inattention. (Y/N)	5%
13	Month	Month of accident	3%
14	Day	Day of Week of Accident	2%
15	Y	y coordinate	2%
16	SPEEDING	Whether or not speeding was a factor in the collision. (Y/N)	1%
17	X	x coordinate	1%
18	VEHCOUNT	The number of vehicles involved in the collision. This is entered by the state.	-4%
19	HITPARKEDCAR	Whether or not the collision involved hitting a parked car. (Y/N)	-4%
20	lightcond_code	Encoded light conditions during the collision.	-11%
21	roadcond_code	Encoded road conditions during the collision.	-11%
22	weather_code	Encoded weather conditions during the collision.	-13%
23	colltype_code	Encoded collision type during the collision.	-14%
24	junctype_code	Encoded junction type during the collision.	-22%

Figure 3.1.1 Correlation rankings on full unbalanced data set.

Unbalanced Data	X	Y	INTKEY	SEVCODE	SEVERITY	PERSONC	PEDCOUN	PEDCYLC	VEHCOUN	SDOT_COLCODE	INATTENT	UNDERINFL	PEDROW	SPEEDING	HITPARK	HofD	Year	Month	Day	colltype_code	addrtype_code	juncntype_code	weather_code	roadcond_code	lightcond_code
X		100%	-16%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	-1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%
Y																									
INTKEY																									
SEVCODE																									
SEVERITYDESC																									
PERSONCOUNT																									
PEDCOUNT																									
PEDCYLCOUNT																									
VEHCOUNT																									
SDOT_COLCODE																									
INATTENTIONIND																									
UNDERINFL																									
PEDROWNOTGRNT																									
SPEEDING																									
HITPARKEDCAR																									
HofD																									
Year																									
Month																									
Day																									
colltype_code																									
addrtype_code																									
juncntype_code																									
weather_code																									
roadcond_code																									
lightcond_code																									

Figure 3.1.2 Un-balanced full data set Feature Correlation Matrix

Balanced Data	x	y	INTKEY	SEVCODE	SEVERITY	PERSONC	PEDCOUN	PEDCYLC	VEHCOUN	SDOT_COLCODE	INATTENT	UNDERINFL	PEDROW	SPEEDING	HITPARK	HofD	Year	Month	Day	colltype_code	addrtype_code	juncntype_code	weather_code	roadcond_code	lightcond_code
X		100%	-16%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	-1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	-1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%
Y																									
INTKEY																									
SEVCODE																									
SEVERITYDESC																									
PERSONCOUNT																									
PEDCOUNT																									
PEDCYLCOUNT																									
VEHCOUNT																									
SDOT_COLCODE																									
INATTENTIONIND																									
UNDERINFL																									
PEDROWNOTGRNT																									
SPEEDING																									
HITPARKEDCAR																									
HofD																									
Year																									
Month																									
Day																									
colltype_code																									
addrtype_code																									
juncntype_code																									
weather_code																									
roadcond_code																									
lightcond_code																									

Figure 3.1.3 Balanced data set Feature Correlation Matrix

3.2 Box Plots:

Analysis of feature boxplots with respect to severity classifications yielded three main observations. First the population of total people involved in Level-1 severity accidents is more widely distributed compared to Level-2 distribution. However, Level-2 accidents show more involvement with pedestrians and cyclists that may result to more serious injuries. Third, the Level-2 accident distributions exhibit more codes with higher numbers that are related to accidents involving factors should reasonably correlate to more serious injury and fatalities including: collisions with heavy machinery, overturned vehicles, collisions with animals, vehicle fires, striking fixed objects, and collisions with trains.

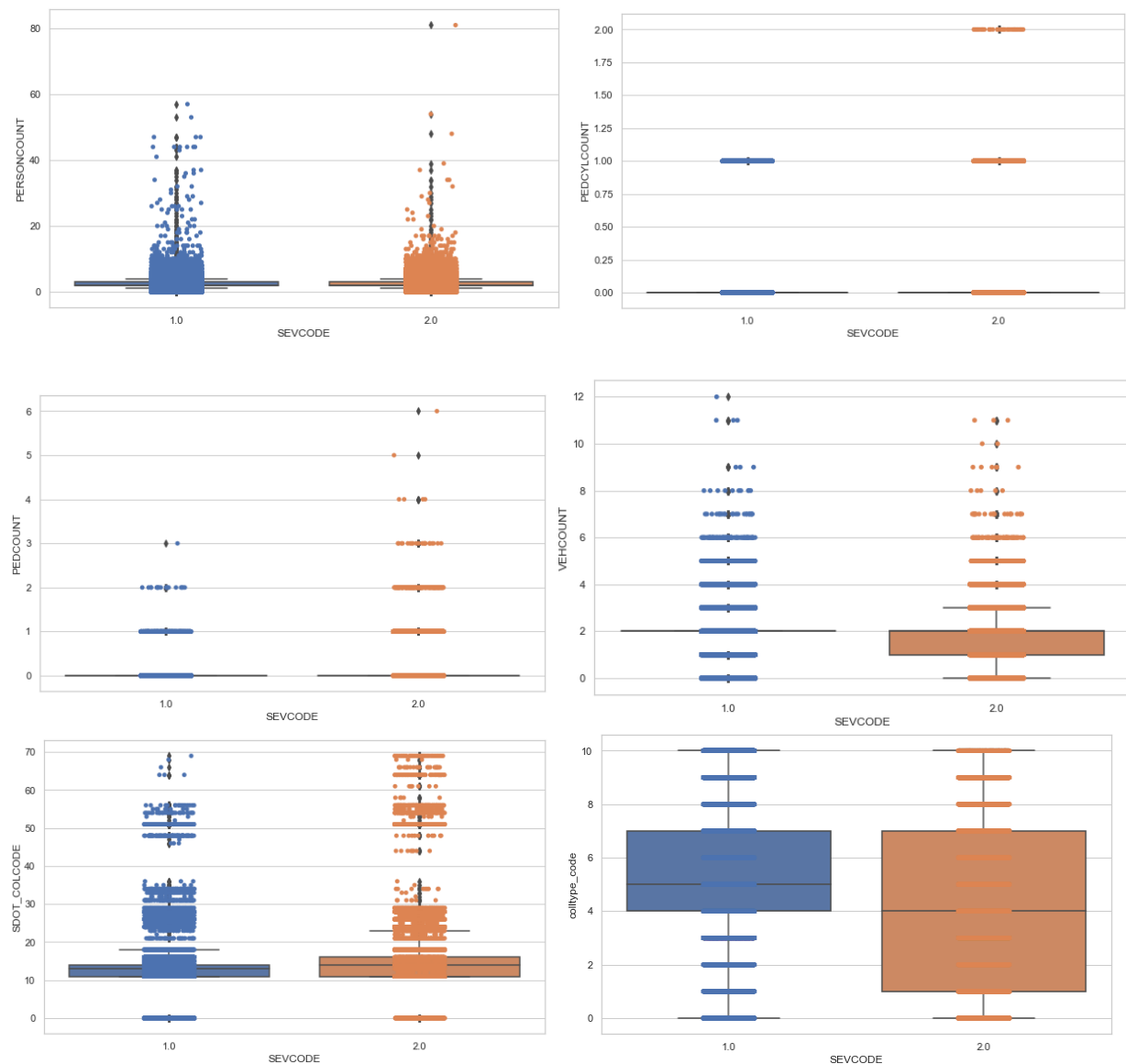


Figure 3.2.1 Boxplots Feature Evaluation and Comparisons

3.3 Histograms:

As discussed in section 3.2 the Collision Code distributions are materially different as shown by Figure 3.3.1-2 where there is clearly a higher number of accidents with codes in the 40-70 range all of which correlation to circumstances that would reasonably result in more serious injuries and fatalities, as discussed in section 3.2.

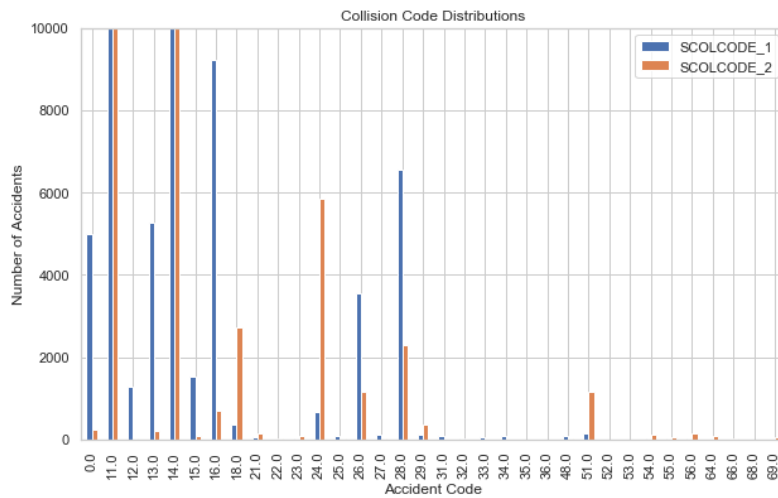


Figure 3.3.1 Accident Code Distributions

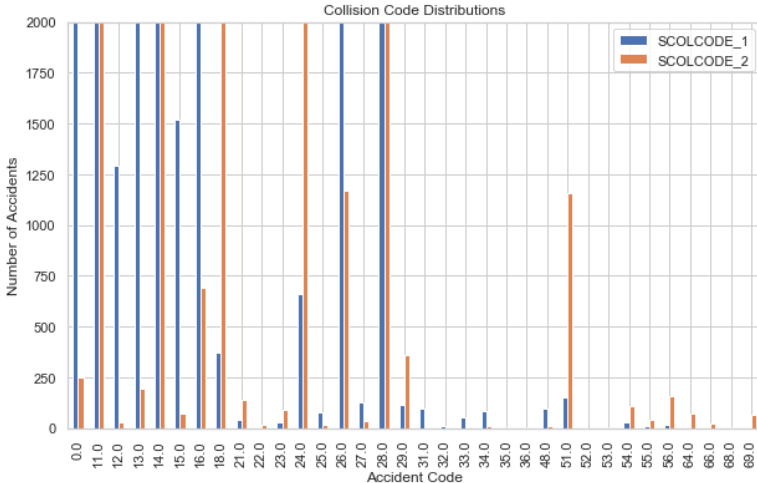


Figure 3.3.2 Expanded Scale Accident Code Distributions

3.4 Feature Selection:

Based on the analysis in Sections 2 and 3 the number of features was reduced from 36 to 24, with a secondary analysis run which also dropped to the Severity Description features for comparison. After the final set of features was determined the data was normalized to the wide range of values between features.

4. Predictive Modeling

As outlined in the analytic approach three binary classification machine learning models were chosen: Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine Classifier, and Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) deep neural network. These classifiers were chosen because of their wide spread and successful use across industries and area of investigation. The specific model objects were leveraged from existing classifiers that had been developed and successfully deployed for prior Credit Fraud prediction studies. These models proved to be very robust for this investigation, all three generalizing well on novel test data, with the Logistic regression model slightly underperforming SVM and MLP due to higher false positive rates.

4.1 Logistic Regression:

```
# Train a logistic regression classifier with default parameters using X_train and y_train.
# For the logistic regression classifier, create a precision recall curve and a roc curve
#using y_test and the probability estimates for X_test (probability it is fraud).
# Looking at the precision recall curve, what is the recall when the precision is `0.75`?
# Looking at the roc curve, what is the true positive rate when the false positive rate is `0.16`?
# *This function should return a tuple with two floats, i.e. `(recall, true positive rate)`.*

logreg = LogisticRegression(C=0.01, solver='liblinear',max_iter = 500)

logreg.fit(X_train, y_train)

y_pred = logreg.predict(X_val)
print('Accuracy of logistic regression classifier on test set: {:.2f}'.format(logreg.score(X_val, y_val)))
```

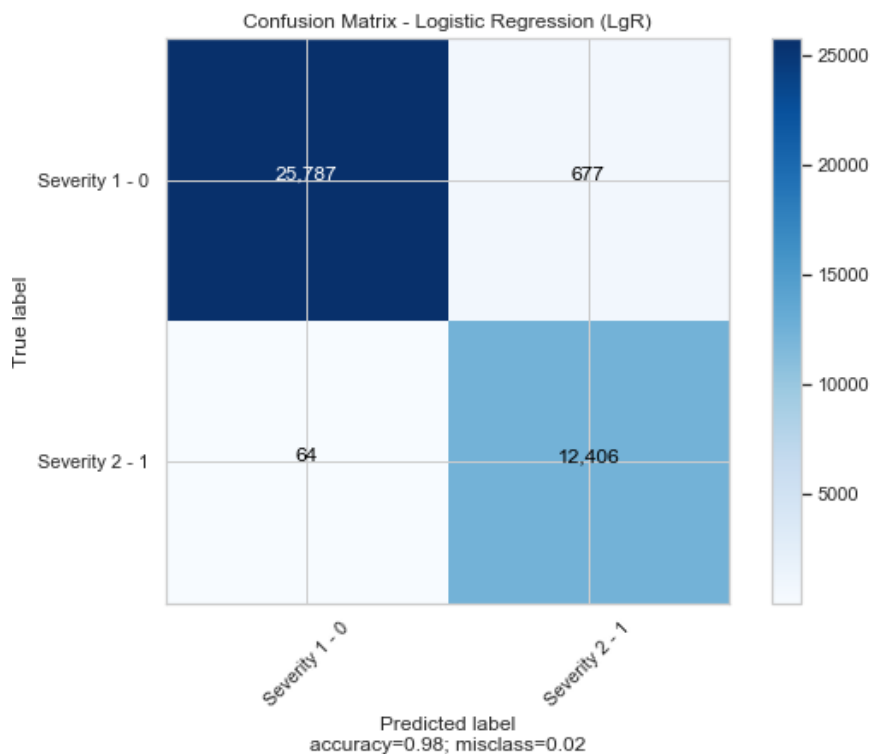


Figure 4.1.1 Example Logistic Regression Model and Confusion Matrix

4.2 Support Vector Machine Classifier (SVC):

```
# Using X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test (as defined above), train a SVC classifier using the default parameters.
# What is the accuracy, recall, and precision of this classifier?
from sklearn.metrics import precision_recall_curve
from sklearn.metrics import plot_precision_recall_curve
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from sklearn.metrics import average_precision_score

# *This function should a return a tuple with three floats, i.e. `(accuracy score, recall score, precision score)`.
#def SVC_classifier():

svm = SVC(C=1.0, cache_size=200, class_weight=None, coef0=0.0,
          decision_function_shape='ovr', degree=3, gamma='scale',
          kernel='rbf', max_iter=-1, probability=False, random_state=None,
          shrinking=True, tol=0.001, verbose=1).fit(X_train, y_train)
y_pred = svm.predict(X_val)
accuracy_sc = svm.score(X_val, y_val)
recall_sc = recall_score(y_val, y_pred)
precision_sc = precision_score(y_val, y_pred)
average_precision = average_precision_score(y_val, y_pred)
disp = plot_precision_recall_curve(svm, X_val, y_val)
disp.ax.set_title('2-class Precision-Recall curve: '
                  'AP={0:0.2f}'.format(average_precision))
print('Average precision-recall score: {0:0.2f}'.format(
      average_precision))
```

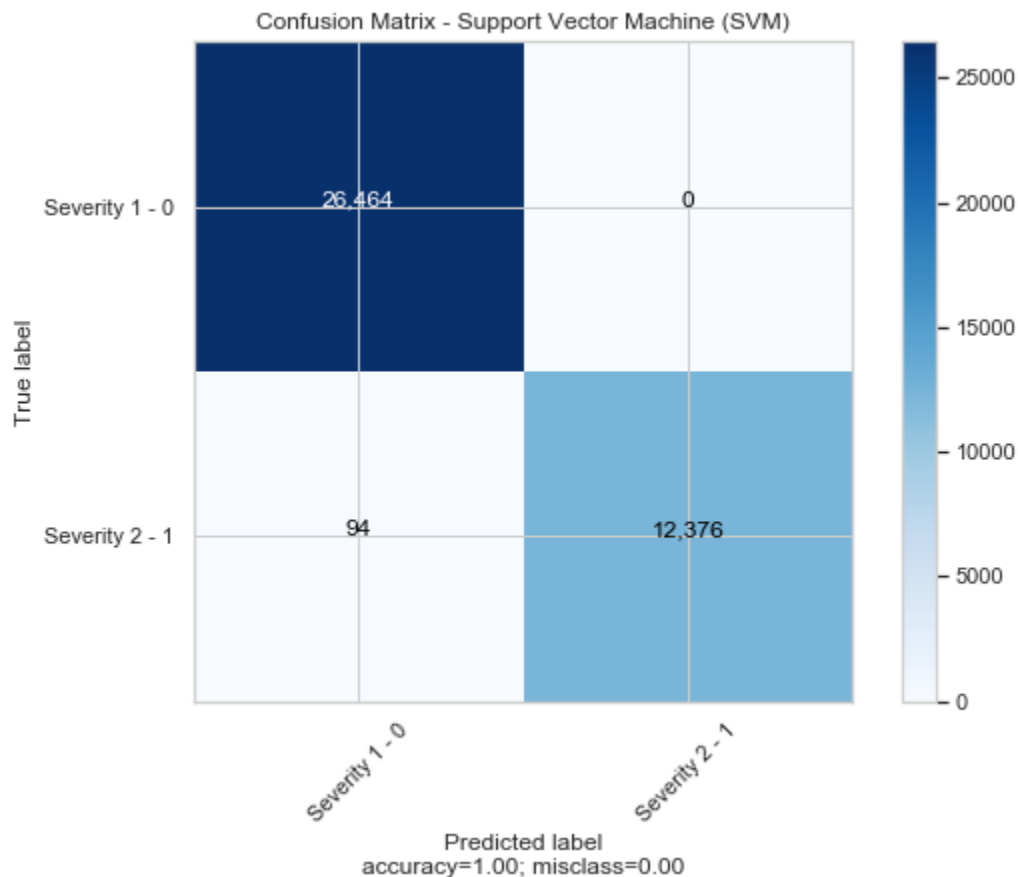


Figure 4.2.1 Example Support Vector Classifier Model and Confusion Matrix

4.3 Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP):

```
model3 = MLPClassifier(hidden_layer_sizes=(27,27,10),
                        activation='relu',
                        solver='adam',
                        learning_rate='adaptive',
                        early_stopping=True,
                        max_iter=500, alpha=0.0001,
                        verbose=0, random_state=21,)

model3.fit(X_train, y_train)
y_pred = model3.predict(X_val)
test_acc = accuracy_score(y_val, y_pred) * 100.
loss_values = model3.loss_curve_
```

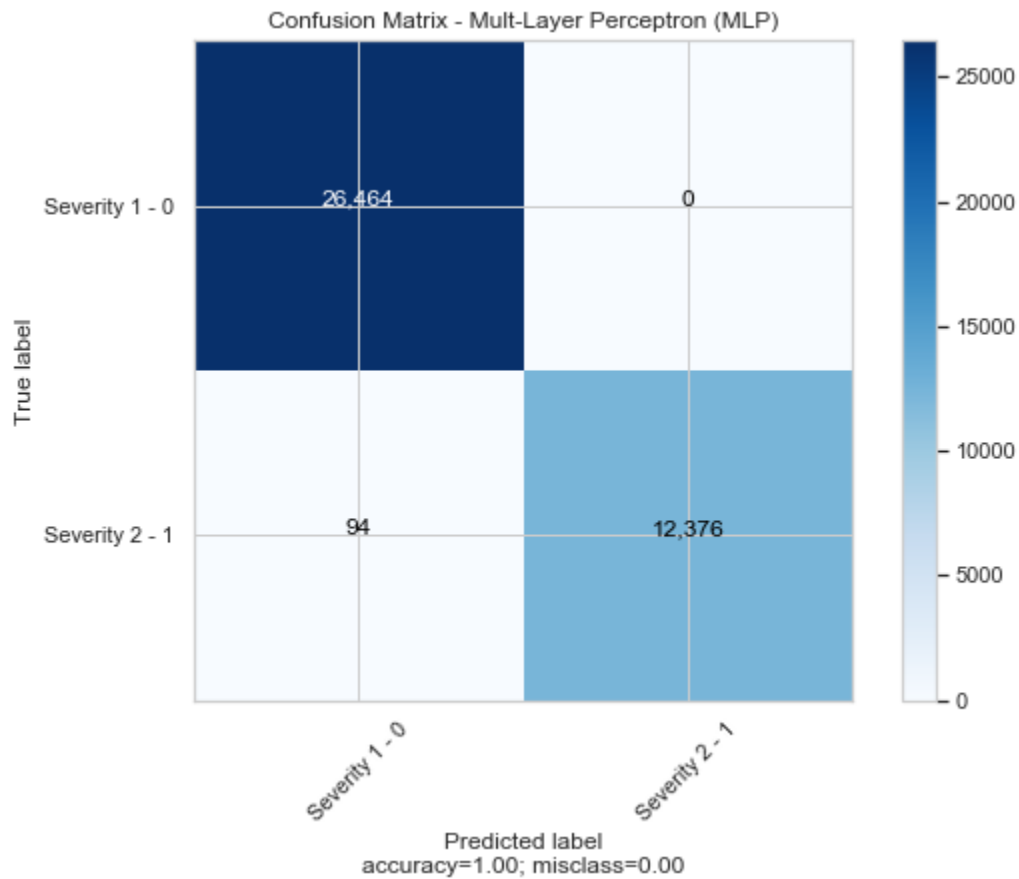


Figure 4.1.3 Example Multi-Layer Perceptron Model and Confusion Matrix

4.4 Model Performance Summary:

It turned out that the encoded SEVERITYDESC feature was by far the most important feature for all three models. This was evident by the ~80% correlation between that feature and the SEVCODE target label. This proved to be the case for both unbalanced and balanced data with a 25-30% reduction in accuracy when it was omitted from the models.

SEVERITYDESC feature included							
Unbalanced Training/Validation		precision	recall	f1-score	support	Accuracy	
MLP	Level 1	0	1.00	1.00	22030	1.00	
	Level 2	1	1.00	0.99	9118		
LogReg	Level 1	0	1.00	0.98	22030	0.99	
	Level 2	1	0.96	0.99	9118		
SVM	Level 1	0	1.00	1.00	22030	1.00	
	Level 2	1	1.00	0.99	9118		
Confusion Matrix							
MLP	True Labels	Severity 1	71%	0%			
		Severity 2	0%	29%			
LogReg		Severity 1	70%	1%			
		Severity 2	0%	29%			
SVM		Severity 1	71%	0%			
		Severity 2	0%	29%			
		Severity 1	Severity 2				
		Predicted Labels					

SEVERITYDESC feature included							
Balanced Training/Validation		precision	recall	f1-score	support	Accuracy	
MLP	Level 1	0	0.99	1.00	9430	1.00	
	Level 2	1	1.00	0.99	9191		
LogReg	Level 1	0	1.00	0.97	9430	0.99	
	Level 2	1	0.97	1.00	9191		
SVM	Level 1	0	0.99	1.00	9430	1.00	
	Level 2	1	1.00	0.99	9191		
Confusion Matrix							
MLP	True Labels	Severity 1	51%	0%			
		Severity 2	0%	49%			
LogReg		Severity 1	49%	1%			
		Severity 2	0%	49%			
SVM		Severity 1	51%	0%			
		Severity 2	0%	49%			
		Severity 1	Severity 2				
		Predicted Labels					

4.4.1 SEVERITYDESC feature included

Unbalanced Test Data						precision	recall	f1-score	support	Accuracy
MLP	Level 1	0	0.77	0.95	0.85	22030	0.76			
	Level 2	1	0.70	0.30	0.42	9118				
LogReg	Level 1	0	0.74	0.98	0.84	22030	0.74			
	Level 2	1	0.80	0.15	0.26	9118				
SVM	Level 1	0	0.74	0.99	0.85	22030	0.75			
	Level 2	1	0.90	0.18	0.30	9118				

Confusion Matrix					
MLP	True Labels	Severity 1	67%	4%	
		Severity 2	20%	9%	
LogReg		Severity 1	67%	4%	
		Severity 2	20%	9%	
SVM		Severity 1	70%	1%	
		Severity 2	24%	5%	
		Severity 1	Severity 2		
		Predicted Labels			

Balanced Test Data						precision	recall	f1-score	support	Accuracy
MLP	Level 1	0	0.75	0.60	0.66	9232	0.70			
	Level 2	1	0.67	0.81	0.73	9389				
LogReg	Level 1	0	0.62	0.68	0.65	9232	0.63			
	Level 2	1	0.65	0.59	0.62	9389				
SVM	Level 1	0	0.63	0.76	0.69	9232	0.66			
	Level 2	1	0.70	0.57	0.63	9389				

Confusion Matrix					
MLP	True Labels	Severity 1	30%	20%	
		Severity 2	10%	41%	
LogReg		Severity 1	34%	16%	
		Severity 2	21%	30%	
SVM		Severity 1	37%	12%	
		Severity 2	22%	29%	
		Severity 1	Severity 2		
		Predicted Labels			

4.4.2 SEVERITYDESC feature omitted

5. Conclusions:

It is the judgement of the investigator that for this model to be successfully deployed as a live smart phone or car app it would hinge on inclusion of the SEVERITYDESC code and the MLP dep neural network should be chosen due to the following three factors: 1) High accuracy, 2) low false positive rate and 3) faster performance compared to SVM. The SVM model took approximately twice as long to compute solutions and will be sub-optimal from an operating efficiency standpoint.

Annex - 1:

For this week, you will be required to submit the following:

1. A description of the problem and a discussion of the background. **(15 marks)**
2. A description of the data and how it will be used to solve the problem. **(15 marks)**

For the second week, the final deliverables of the project will be:

1. A link to your Notebook on your Github repository, showing your code. **(15 marks)**
2. A full report consisting of all of the following components **(15 marks)**:
 - Introduction where you discuss the business problem and who would be interested in this project.
 - Data where you describe the data that will be used to solve the problem and the source of the data.
 - Methodology section which represents the main component of the report where you discuss and describe any exploratory data analysis that you did, any inferential statistical testing that you performed, if any, and what machine learnings were used and why.
 - Results section where you discuss the results.
 - Discussion section where you discuss any observations you noted and any recommendations you can make based on the results.
 - Conclusion section where you conclude the report.
3. Your choice of a presentation or blogpost. **(10 marks)**

Here are examples of previous outstanding submissions that should give you an idea of what your report would look like, what your notebook would look like in terms of clean, clear, and well-commented code, and what your presentation would look like or your blogpost would look like:

1. **Report:** https://cocl.us/coursera_capstone_report
2. **Notebook:** https://cocl.us/coursera_capstone_notebook
3. **Presentation:** https://cocl.us/coursera_capstone_presentation
4. **Blogpost:** https://cocl.us/coursera_capstone_blogpost

Annex - 2:

- 1) <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/seattle-area-traffic-remains-sixth-most-congested-among-major-u-s-cities/>
- 2) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/199983/us-vehicle-sales-since-1951/>

Annex -3:

State Collision Code Dictionary			
#	Code Description	#	Code Description
0	Vehicle Going Straight Hits Pedestrian	44	Unicycle
1	Vehicle Turning Right Hits Pedestrian	45	Bicycle
2	Vehicle Turning Left Hits Pedestrian	46	Tricycle
3	Vehicle Backing Hits Pedestrian	47	Domestic Animal (horse, cow, sheep, etc)
4	Vehicle Hits Pedestrian - All Other Actions	48	Domestic Animal Other (Cat, Dog etc)
5	Vehicle Hits Pedestrian - Actions Not Stated	49	Non Domestic Animal (deer, bear, elk, etc)
10	Entering At Angle	50	Struck Fixed Object
11	From Same Direction -Both Going Straight-BothMoving- Sideswipe	51	Struck Other Object
12	From Same Direction -Both Going Straight-OneStopped- Sideswipe	52	Vehicle Overturned
13	From Same Direction - Both Going Straight - BothMoving- Rear End	53	Person Fell, Jumped, or was Pushed From Vehicle
14	From Same Direction - Both Going Straight - OneStopped - Rear End	54	Fire Started In Vehicle
15	From Same Direction - One Left Turn - One Straight	55	Accidently Overcame By Carbon Monoxide Poison
16	From Same Direction - One Right Turn - OneStraight	56	Breakage Of Any Part Of the Vehicle Resulting InInjury or in Further Property Damage
19	One Car Entering Parked Position	57	All Other Non-Collisions
20	One Car Leaving Parked Position	60	Vehicle Hits State Road or Construction Machinery
21	One Car Entering Driveway Access	61	Vehicle Struck By State Road or ConstructionMachinery
22	One Car Leaving Driveway Access	62	Vehicle Hits County Road or ConstructionMachinery
23	From Same Direction - All Others	63	Vehicle Struck By County Road or ConstructionMachinery
24	From Opposite Direction - Both Moving - Head On	64	Vehicle Hits City Road or Construction Machinery
25	From Opposite Direction - One Stopped - Head On	65	Vehicle Struck By City Road or ConstructionMachinery
26	From Opposite Direction - Both Going Straight -sideswipe	66	Vehicle Hits Other Road or Construction Machinery
27	From Opposite Direction - Both Going Straight - OneStopped - sideswipe	67	Vehicle Struck by Other Road or ConstructionMachinery
28	From Opposite Direction - One Left Turn - OneStraight	71	Same Direction - Both Turning Right - Both Moving -Sideswipe
29	From Opposite Direction - One Left Turn - One RightTurn	72	Same Direction - Both Turning Right - One Stopped -Sideswipe
30	From Opposite Direction - All Others	73	Same Direction - Both Turning Right - Both Moving -Rear End
31	Not Stated	74	Same Direction - Both Turning Right - One Stopped -Rear End
32	One Parked - One Moving	81	Same Direction - Both Turning Left - Both Moving -Sideswipe
40	Train Struck Moving Vehicle	82	Same Direction - Both Turning Left - One Stopped -Sideswipe
41	Train Struck Stopped or Stalled Vehicle	83	Same Direction - Both Turning Left - Both Moving -Rear End
42	Vehicle Struck Moving Train	84	Same Direction - Both Turning Left - One Stopped -Rear End
43	Vehicle Struck Stopped Train		